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As a supporter of Defenders of Wildlife and someone who cares about America's wildlife and wild places, I am writing today to urge the Bureau of Land Management to protect millions of acres of public lands from oil shale development by selecting "Alternative 3" in the oil shale Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the alternative most protective of our public lands.

I am pleased that BLM is taking clear and measured steps to restore order to the federal oil shale and tar sands policy. While the agency's preferred alternative (2(b)) is a step in the right direction, a stronger approach is needed to protect our public lands.

Alternative 3 in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement would not allow for commercial development of oil shale extraction until further research is done for a clearer understanding of its impacts on our public lands and the wildlife that live there.

This alternative places important environmental and ecological areas off-limits to development and requires companies to prove their technologies and evaluate their impacts on communities, human health and the environment.

The two million acres of land in Utah, Wyoming and Colorado being considered for oil shale development is a massive amount of America's public land to be sacrificed for the development of a destructive and unproven energy source.

These vast expanses of public lands are home to the iconic pronghorn, sage grouse, prairie dogs, golden eagles and other wildlife. They are also habitat that is key to the survival and recovery of the highly endangered black-footed ferret.

Oil shale production is a dirty business that is not economically viable. The BLM itself estimates that its development would consume large amounts of water, cause significant air pollution and destroy thousands of acres of wildlife habitat.

Oil shale is currently producing no jobs and no revenue. The Congressional Budget Office confirmed that it is not expected to produce significant revenues through 2022.

The industry already has access to thousands of acres of public and private lands for research and development. We shouldn't sacrifice even more western public lands for such a destructive and unproven energy source.

These millions of acres of western public lands are vital to economies that rely on tourism and wildlife-related recreation. In Colorado alone these activities generate \$3 billion in economic activity. Protecting jobs and related revenue from these sustainable economies must be prioritized over the speculative investment in oil shale production on public lands.

America's wildlife and wild places are too valuable to squander on the destructive and unproven practice of oil shale development.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.